

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of setting a tee into the ground with a golf ball on top of it, comprising:
  - using a device having a shaft with an upper radially extending actuator for actuating a moveable ball engageable member;
  - placing a golf ball on top of a tee and inserting the tee into a shallow open slot in a tee engageable member of the device, said shallow slot being disposed generally in alignment and below the radial actuator and opening radially in the opposite direction from the actuator;
  - driving the tee into the ground using the device;
  - using the actuator to retract the ball engageable member away from the ball; and
  - permitting the tee engageable member to swing under the force of gravity along a generally arcuate path of travel away from the tee and toward the user to cause the slot to move away from the tee to free the device from the tee and the ball.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the actuator includes a pair of radially extending handles, and said using the actuator including, manually squeezing the handles toward one another.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said permitting includes manually supporting the device by the radial actuator and causing the tee engageable member to swing under the force of gravity away from the tee.
4. A device for setting a golf ball and tee, comprising:
  - a tubular shaft;
  - a ball and tee receiving member disposed at the bottom end portion of said shaft;

a ball engageable member disposed at the lower end portion of said shaft for pressing the ball against the tee when the ball is received by the receiving member;

said receiving member having a tee engageable member having a shallow slot opening radially in a direction to receive the tee within the slot;

a hand engageable lever actuator extending radially from the upper end portion of said shaft in an opposite direction to the opening of said slot for actuating the moveable ball engageable member to cause it to move away from the ball; and

said C-shaped member having a massive portion disposed substantially below and substantially opposite the actuator to cause the center of gravity of the device to be disposed offset from said shaft and said slot so that when the device is held by the radial actuator and the ball engageable member retracts away from the ball, the receiving member tends to swing away from the tee to disengage the tee from the shallow slot.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein said shallow slot is generally semicircular and slightly greater than 180°.
6. A device according to claim 4, wherein said actuator includes a pair of radial handles.
7. A device according to claim 6, wherein one of said handles is fixed to said shaft, and the other one of said handles is moveably mounted relative to the fixed handle.
8. A device according to claim 7, wherein said ball engageable member includes a rod moveably mounted within said tubular shaft and fixed at its top end portion to the moveable handle.
9. A device according to claim 8, wherein said moveable handle includes a groove for receiving the top end of said rod.

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10. A device according to claim 4, wherein said receiving member is generally C-shaped.
11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the C-shaped receiving member includes a pair of spaced-apart arms.